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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO
PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR
RESTORED DEMOCRACIES
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 14 May 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint declaration by the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey on the development of relations of friendship, good-neighbourliness and cooperation among the three countries on the occasion of the ground-breaking ceremony of the Deriner Dam on 26 April 1998 in Trabzon, Turkey (see annex).

We should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as documents of the General Assembly under agenda items 38, 81, 97, 98 and 152 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar G. KOULIEV
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Azerbaijani Republic

(Signed) Peter P. CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Georgia

(Signed) Vulkan VURAL
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Turkey

ANNEX

Joint statement of the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey issued at Trabzon, Turkey, on 26 April 1998

1. The President of the Azerbaijani Republic, Mr. Heydar Aliyev, the President of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze and the President of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Süleyman Demirel, met in the city of Trabzon, Turkey, on 26 April 1998 on the occasion of the ground-breaking ceremony of the Deriner Dam, and considered the further enhancement of friendship, cooperation and good-neighbourliness among the three countries.

2. The Presidents expressed their readiness to further develop and deepen the existing relations of special friendship, good-neighbourliness and cooperation among the Azerbaijani Republic, Georgia and the Republic of Turkey. They stated that they viewed those relations as an increasingly developing and significant element of peace and stability, economic development and closeness based on mutual interests among the peoples in the region.

3. The Presidents referred to the importance of expanding and increasing the effectiveness of joint efforts, both at the regional and international levels, to ensure security and stability in the region. They emphasized the urgency of peaceful settlement of conflicts in the region, based on the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders. They underlined the necessity to increase the effectiveness of joint efforts in the struggle against aggressive separatism and all forms of terrorism.

4. The President of the Republic of Turkey expressed his support to the realization of the principles of the Tbilisi Declaration on Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Caucasus Region (A/51/89, annex), signed by the President of the Azerbaijani Republic and the President of Georgia.

5. The Presidents emphasized the importance of increased economic cooperation, as well as of joint efforts for the preparation and realization of wide-scale regional projects. Emphasizing the importance attached to the realization of the east-west energy corridor, crossing the Caspian and Caucasia, which they assessed to be one of the primary routes for the transport of the energy resources of the Caspian Basin, the Presidents expressed their readiness to take concrete steps towards the implementation of projects concerning transportation of Azeri oil by the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan route and of Caspian Basin natural gas to Turkey through Azerbaijan and Georgia.

6. The Presidents underlined the importance of the development of the historic Silk Route and of the Eurasian transportation corridor TRASECA, as well as of the acceleration of the construction of the Kars-Tbilisi railway, a high-priority element of this corridor.

7. The Presidents stressed the importance of joint efforts aimed at the protection of the environment, including the Black Sea, the Turkish Straits and transboundary ecosystems.

8. The Presidents noted with satisfaction that the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region has entered into a new stage of development, and that its transformation into a regional international organization would undoubtedly make a great contribution to the enhancement of economic cooperation among the countries of the Black Sea Basin.

9. The Presidents agreed to take steps that in the future would bring closer the countries of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region and of the Caspian Basin and that would enable the deepening of mutual understanding and, on that basis, confidence and mutual respect among the peoples of the region.